Government and Politics 422

Quantitative Political Analysis

Section 0101

Fall 2013
Tuesday & Thursday 2:00-3:15.
Room: Tydings 2110

Instructor
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Office Hours: Thursdays 9:30 to 11:00am (Tydings 1127C)

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Data has come to play an increasingly important role in how we understand politics. Social scientists, pollsters, and campaign managers draw on large data sets to explain the outcomes of elections, the policy process, and the interaction between citizens and their representatives, among other important topics.

Political scientists have developed methods of data collection and analysis to identify and explain political phenomena. This course covers the basics of research methods in the social sciences, drawing on several examples from the political science literature. Like many courses, this one reflects the perspectives and experiences of the instructor. I presume that no single method is best, and that all methods have strengths and weaknesses. We will consider both general recommendations and many applied examples.

This is not a course in data analysis; it is rather a course on how to pose questions and address them with data. By the end of this course, students will be well equipped to understand and critically evaluate political research and to undertake research of their own.

Assignments

Over the term you are responsible for the following:

Three written assignments (15%)
Midterm Exam (25%)
Paper and Presentation (25%)
Final Exam (25%)
Class Participation/Quizzes (10%)

The paper project will include a short 7-10 page research proposal (65%) and a 5 min. power point presentation (35%). 10% of your presentation grade will come from an average grade given to you by two of your fellow classmates assigned to evaluate your presentation. Paper guidelines will be discussed more in class. **Late papers will be penalized 10% for each day beyond the due date.**

Problem sets will only be accepted at the BEGINNING of class on the day that your assignment is due. **Late assignments will be penalized 10% (late means any time after class begins on the day that your assignment is due) and an additional 10% for each day after that.**

All assignments must be turned in as hard copies in class. No assignments will be accepted over email.

Class Participation

Please read all assigned materials and participate in class discussions. Your class participation grade consists of an equal weighting of attendance and *quality* of participation. *Quality* refers not to quantity but to close attention to the readings and course materials. Quizzes will count as part of participation.

Expectations

My expectations for students are straightforward. I expect all students to read the assigned material before coming to class, think critically about it, and be ready to share their thoughts and participate in discussion.

Remember that this is an academic environment. Therefore, I ask that you minimize unnecessary disruptions (this includes, but it is not limited to, side conversations and cell phone calls), respect others beliefs (challenge the idea and not the person), be courteous and refrain from using profanity in the class. I also ask that you be proactive if any conflict occurs. This means notifying me immediately of any problems you are having in class.

Academic Honesty

The University of Maryland has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit www.shc.umd.edu.

Academic Accommodations

If you have a disability that requires an accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services at (301) 314-7682. Please be sure to notify your instructor of this matter and provide the appropriate documentation by the second class meeting.

Changes to the Course

I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus in order to better facilitate the needs of the course. Students will be notified of any changes.

Course Topics
Introduction
Political Inquiry through Multiple Methods
Experiments
Quasi-Experiments
Untangling Cause and Effect through the Statistical Method
Surveys
Interviews and Questionnaires
Measurement
Field Studies
Reflections

Course Topics and Readings

There are no books for the course. All readings are available on-line at **BLACKBOARD (myelms.umd.edu)**.

WEEK 1
September 3 Introduction to the Class

September 5 Political Inquiry through Multiple Methods
King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Pp. 3-19.

WEEK 2

September 10 Political Inquiry through Multiple Methods II
Shively, W. Phillips. "Political Theories and Research Topics." In *The Craft of Political Research*. Chs 1 and 2

September 12 Experiments and Causal Inference
Kinder and Palfrey. 1993. "On Behalf of an Experimental Political Science." In Kinder and Palfrey, eds., *Experimental Foundations of Political Science*. Pp. 1-33

WEEK 3

September 17 Applied Readings: Experiments
Gerber, Alan S, Donald P Green, and Ron Shachar. 2003. "Voting May Be Habit-Forming: Evidence from a Randomized Field Experiment." *American Journal of Political Science* 47(3): 540–50.

September 19 Quasi-Experiments (1st Assignment Due)
Shadish, William R, Cook, T.D. and Campbell, D.T. 2002. *Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Generalized Causal Inference*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. Pp. 103-106.

WEEK 4

September 24 Quasi-Experiments
Gosnell Harold. 1927. Getting out the Vote (pgs 1-45)

September 26 Using Statistics to Untangle Cause and Effect
Kish, Leslie. 1970. "Some Statistical Problems in Research Design." In E.R. Tufte, ed., *The Quantitative Analysis of Social Problems*. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley. Pp. 391-406.

WEEK 5

October 1 Using Statistics to Untangle Cause and Effect and Applied Readings
Huddy Leonie, Stanley Feldman, Charles Taber and Gallya Lahav 2005. "Threat, Anxiety, and Support of Antiterrorism Policies." *American Journal Political Science* Vol 49: pgs. 593-608.

October 3 Surveys (2nd Assignment Due)
Manheim et al. 2008. Empirical Political Analysis: Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods. Pgs 137-148.

WEEK 6

October 8 Surveys
Winter, Nicholas 2006. "Beyond Welfare: Framing and the Racialization of White

Opinion on Social Security." *American Journal of Political Science* Vol. 50: pgs. 400-420.

October 10 – TBD

WEEK 7

October 15 – Writing Workshop

October 17 – Review Session

WEEK 8

October 22 – ***Midterm Exam***

October 24 Interviews and Questionnaires
Converse, Jean M., and Stanley Presser. 1986. *Survey Questions. Handcrafting the Standardized Questionnaire*. Beverly Hills: Sage.9-25.

WEEK 9

October 29 Interviews and Questionnaires and Applied Readings
Yalch, Richard F. 1976. "Pre-Election Interview Effects on Voter Turnout." *The Public Opinion Quarterly* 40(3): 331–36.

October 31 Measurement
Gerring, John. 2001. *Social Science Methodology. A Criterial Framework*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Pp. 35-64.

WEEK 10

November 5 Measurement and Applied Readings (3ʳᵈ Assignment Due)
Katz, Jonathan N., and Gabriel Katz. 2010. "Correcting for Survey Misreports Using Auxiliary Information with an Application to Estimating Turnout." *American Journal of Political Science* 54(3): 815–35.

November 7 Field Studies
Wolcott. Transforming Qualitative Data. Pgs 9-23.

Fenno, Richard. 1978. *Home-Style*. Boston: Little-Brown. Chapter 1.

WEEK 11

November 12 Field Studies and Applied Readings
Fenno, Richard. 1978. *Home-Style*. Boston: Little-Brown. Appendix.

November 14 – In Class Presentations

WEEK 12

November 19 – In Class Presentations

November 21 – In Class Presentations

WEEK 13
November 26 - In Class Presentations

November 28 – No Class – Thanksgiving Break

WEEK 14

December 3 Reflections
*Medawar, Peter. 1979. Advice to a Young Scientist. New York: Harper & Row. 1-27

December 5 Reflections 2: The future of political science
Symposium – "Shaking Things Up? Thoughts about the Future of Political Science" *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 35 [2] (June 2002): 181-205 [Discussants: Kristen Renwick Monroe, Russell Hardin, Robert Jarvis, Elinor Ostrom, Susanne Rudolph, Marion Smiley, Rogers Smith]

WEEK 15

December 10 ***PAPER IS DUE***

December 12 Review Session